(b) what steps have been taken to implement these recommendations in case of procurements by Government or PSEs; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce the offset clause in case of imported machinaries, systems and plants as in case of defence procurements?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The recommendations in the report of the sub-committee on stimulating demand for indigenous technology products covers five categories namely General Industries, Strategic and Defence Sectors,Emerging and New Technologies; Role of Small and Medium Enterprises and Incubation of High Tech Industries. In addition to specific recommendations for these categories, the general recommendations in the report highlight the need to sensitize users about the status of indigenous lab level technologies and initiate appropriate measures to disseminate information of Indian products and awareness of their advantages. The report also recommends purchase of Indian indigenous products which are equal to overseas products in terms of value for money and other criteria especially by the government departments and agencies and stress upon the need for periodic indepth analysis of the cost effectiveness of major R&D projects.

(b) No specific steps, have so far been taken as these recommendations require study from different angles.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Setting up of planetarium

146. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up or financially assist in setting up a planetarium in every district of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir, there is no such proposal to set up or financially assist in setting up a planetarium in every district of the country. Science based organizations are encouraged to organize sky shows using portable planetariums for school students.

Research and development activities in scientific labs

147. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that less number of research and development activities have been undertaken in Government scientific labs in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are merely 157 scientists per million doing scientific research and development in the country, because of poor infrastructure, pathetic incentive, etc. to the scientists;

(c) if so, the details thereof;